

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**LIHEAP Service Providers Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2007 – 9am – 11am**

**Pacific Energy Center  
851 Howard Street  
San Francisco, California**

**Conference Call Number – 1-888-447-7153 – pin 5653559#**

**Lunch Meeting – 11am – 1:30pm**

11am-11:30am – CSD & Contractors Website Update

11:30am-12Pm – Disaster Preparedness Update

12pm-12:30pm – Lunch (Provided by PG&E)

12:30pm-1:30pm – Succession Planning

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions of Guests/Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Director's Report
5. Frances Compton, Pacific Gas & Electric Company
6. Solar Energy Initiatives
7. Chief Deputy Report
8. ECIP Task Force Report
9. Suggestions for Topics for Next Meeting
10. Announcements
11. Adjournment

Chair, Val Martinez called the meeting to order at 9am and roll was taken.

### **Roll Call:**

Merced County Community Action Agency  
Department of Community Action, County of Riverside  
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment  
Community Action Agency of San Mateo County, Inc.  
Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.  
Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco, Inc.  
Community Enhancement Services  
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County  
Central Valley Opportunity Center  
San Diego Gas & Electric  
Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, Inc.  
Community Services Development Department  
Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
Self-Help Home Improvement Project, Inc.  
Central Coast Energy Services, Inc.  
North Coast Energy Services  
Community Action Agency of San Mateo County, Inc.  
Kings Community Action Organization, Inc.  
Southern California Forum  
Community Resources Project, Inc.  
Redwood Community Action Agency  
Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission  
Maravilla Foundation  
Community Action Partnership of Orange County  
Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Agency  
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Campesinos Unidos, Inc.  
Southern California Gas  
California/Nevada Community Action Partnership  
Spectrum Community Services, Inc.  
Veterans in Community Service  
Community Action Marin  
Amador-Tuolumne Community Action  
San Benito County Department of Community Services & Workforce Development

Approval of Minutes – Louise Perez moved that the minutes of February 28, 2007 meeting be approved and Kathy Kifaya seconded the motion.

### **Director's Report**

Lloyd Throne opened his report by mentioning that he had been with the Community Services & Development department for one year. He commented that there had been many challenges, changes and improvements during his first year as Director of a State agency. He shared with the group that while the LIHEAP meeting was going on in San Francisco, the Health and Human Services agency in Sacramento was conducting a Disaster Preparedness Drill, which CSD would play a major part and to please excuse Lloyd or Wendy Wohl if they needed to leave the meeting to address the issues of the drill. Lloyd said that the funding contained in the year-long Continuing Resolution remains at the same base level for LIHEAP and DOE for 2007. He thanked the attendees for their input on leveraging. Lloyd stated that the Weatherization Waiver had been approved. Lloyd reminded the group that letter's had been sent to the California Congressional Representative calling for the immediate release of the approximately \$200 million in ECIP (Emergency Contingency Funds) currently available. He brought attention to the press releases that had been in the news regarding the heat wave and how to handle the heat issues. Lloyd spoke about ESO and said that he was very pleased with how CSD and other parties involved had handled the situation. He commented that CSD had not received any negative press statements or comments on the ESO situation. He also said that San Mateo would take on providing temporarily serving the Santa Clara County until a permanent contractor is selected via an award process.

### **Francis Thompson, Supervisor, Pacific Gas & Electric**

Francis Thompson discussed the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program, Local Office Closures, the Education Workshop Pilot Program and the June Low-Income Public Meeting in San Francisco. She said the weatherization budget for the year was \$77 million dollars. Francis commented that a pilot program with three agencies participating in education workshops was under way with Redwood Community Action Agency, Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency and Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Agency. Francis said that the public utility meeting was held in San Francisco on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Among other issues, the meeting addressed PG&E's and San Diego Gas & Electric's plans for complying with the CPUC's directives to competitively bid the awarding of the LIEE program administrator contract. Louise Perez stated that her agency is experiencing an increase with inquiries for the replacement of broken heaters services from PG&E customers. Further Ms. Perez indicated that the majority of inquiries were renters and it has proven to be quite difficult in general to handle the referral request for services due to current LIHEAP and DOE program minimum (three measure rule) requirements for weatherization services. Francis said that PG & E was working on removing these barriers for renters. Jayson Wimbley said that LIHEAP

would like to directly replace the broken heaters instead of going through PG & E; however, future LIHEAP rules changes will limit to the replacement of furnaces only under the conditions of a defined emergency. Francis and Jayson will schedule a meeting to discuss this issue. The next PG & E workshop will be held in Los Angeles. Val Martinez said some new measures to discuss would be – water measures, wall and floor installation, microwaves, LED lighting, air conditioning and high efficiency windows.

The new Community Resource Manager for PG&E, Perla Rodriguez introduced herself to the members and shared her phone number and e-mail address. She can be reached at (415) 973-4387 and her e-mail address is [park@pg&e.com](mailto:park@pg&e.com). Francis said that nine payment centers would be closing. She said you could contact Laurie Elliot at PG & E if you were a local provider interested in becoming a payment center to help with the closures of the office.

### **Solar Energy Initiatives Update**

Renee' Webster-Hawkins, General Counsel for CSD said that SB324 which included eligibility language for solar systems favorable to CSD clientele was high jacked and a new author was being sought. AD1470, the other hot water heater bill was doing well and going to Senate appropriations.

Melicia Charles, from California Public Utilities gave a report on solar initiative for low-income single families.

Arlene Novotney, ACCES commented on the CSD sponsored solar project. She said that ACCES was adding four pilot programs. They would be installing four data loggers at Pace, San Bernardino, Community Resource Project and Redwood Community Action Agency.

Tom Tenorio from Community Action Agency of Butte and Louise Perez from Community Resource Project reported that the solar installation of data loggers was taking place at their agencies. Louise said the energy bills are reduced immediately.

Kathy Ely from CSD reported on the solar PV projects. She said CSD would create a workable program with three agencies, CUI, San Bernardino and CES to test out tools. She said a customer survey was being developed to see if there is an interest. Kathy said CSD would create a workable design and be the administrator for the program. Val Martinez asked for creative ideas from our providers.

## **Chief Deputy Report – Wendy Wohl**

Wendy Wohl commented on the automation task force project which is targeted for a January, 2009 start date. Steve Whitman, CSD, passed out a handout on Automation of Weatherization & Cash Assistance and discussed how automation might affect agency workload and manual process. Val Martinez suggested that a survey be sent to the energy program managers at the agencies as well as the executive directors to determine baseline information on agency automation capabilities. Val also discussed the shortfalls of energy assistance and weatherization funds. Wendy said the Department would be issuing guidance soon to all agencies on how the 2% automation set-a-side could be used to cover automation costs in the 2008 contract year. Leveraging unity between LIHEAP, CALNEVA and ACCESS was discussed. It was suggested that these groups strategize on how to solicit more funds from Washington because California has received very little in emergency money and how California could make its' energy needs more known in Washington. Val Martinez made a move to create a team to look at the funding problems. Louise Perez will Chair the team and the members are Arlene Novotney, Ernie Flores, Kathy Kifaya, Val Martinez and Tony

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There were discussions on the agencies running out of money early and what could be done to help when this happens. Plan B was to try and get funds from the 183 million in ECIP dollars in Washington in light of the fact that California did not receive much when the funds were distributed last time. Ten to fifteen percent of the agencies are depleting their funds before their contracts are up. Further studies are needed to determine the reason the money is not lasting. One agency said that there is a need to budget more efficiently so the funds will last longer; however, they also said that climate issues affect the budget. Wendy Wohl agreed that climate had a big effect this year and more agencies were asking for help. An additional issue was brought up by Jayson and Wendy at this time and that was the Washington request for information on utility disconnect notices to the low-income population and the difficulty California has getting this data from the utility companies. CSD has asked for the information on a regular basis to support CSD's request for additional funds. Francis from PG & E said she might be able to assist CSD in receiving this information and Jay will bring up the matter at the next LIOB meeting.

## **ECIP Task Force Report**

Jayson Wimbley said that there had been recent effort by the Weatherization Task Force to evaluate the purpose and effectiveness of the ECIP program. The task force efforts resulted in the further refinement of program guidelines, emergency definitions and expectations towards ensuring full compliance with statutory requirements. He said also that the ECIP local plan design has changed to serve more as a comprehensive planning document and the plan itself will be incorporated into the contracts. A draft of the local plan will go out in September for network review. The department will extend

the period for completing the local plan from 30-days to 45-days. Val Martinez discussed the State's desire to run a twelve month program. She said the State should allow the providers flexibility to design a program that fits the community's needs. Shelly Hance asked about the repeat customers served. She said the utility assistance needs gets higher every year. Jayson said the ECIP task force was addressing the repeat customer needs. Louise Perez warned that weatherization should be about the home and not the client. This is a concern as a repeat customer. Jayson agreed that weatherization is dwelling based.

### **Announcements**

Kathy Kifaya announced that education information materials needed for agencies could be obtained through her.

Louise Perez spoke about a training program by UCLA – School of Anderson. She said there were forty openings, twenty for non-profit organizations and twenty for entrepreneurs. The cost is \$250 and is refundable if you attend the whole class. The training will be about the purpose of succession. Contact Louise for more information.

**Val Martinez adjourned the meeting at 11:10am.**